

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended herein to better articulate the invention.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 3, 8, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 3 and 8 have been canceled herein rendering this ground for rejection moot. Claims 11 to 12 have been amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to recite the method steps in an active state. Accordingly, Applicants believe that these cancellations and amendments are sufficient to overcome this rejection and respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration.

Double Patenting

The claims stand rejected on the basis of double patenting over a) U.S. Patent No. 6,716,158 (claims 1-12); b) U.S. Serial No. 11/156,004 (claims 13-18 and 35-36); c) U.S. Serial No. 11/156,004 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,716,158 (claims 20-36); and d) U.S. Serial No. 11/156,004 in view of Alferness (WO 00/28918).

a) A terminal disclaimer to U.S. Patent No. 6,716,158 has been included herewith as requested by the Examiner.

b) Claims 13-18 and 35-36 have been canceled herein, thus rendering this ground for rejection moot.

c) Claims 20-36 have been canceled herein, thus rendering this ground for rejection moot.

d) Claim 19 has been canceled herein, thus rendering this ground for rejection moot.

Drawing Objection

Claims 13, 18 and 19 were found to claim features not depicted in the drawings. Although Applicants do not agree with this ground for rejection because the "illustration [of the limitations

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recited in these claims] is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention”, this ground for rejection is rendered moot by cancellation of these claims herein.

SUMMARY

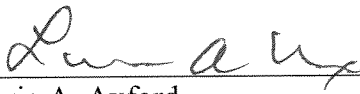
It is believed that the foregoing amendment and argument deals with all grounds of objection and rejection, and that the claims remaining in this application are in order for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of any remaining issue, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned representative for the Applicants by phone at (619) 230-7714 or by email at laxford@gordonrees.com.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1990 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 27, 2007

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